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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/899,608	07/05/2001	Genichi Kimizuka	211A 3139	4063

7590 02/03/2003

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EXAMINER

VAN PELT, BRADLEY J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3682

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/899,608	KIMIZUKA, GENICHI
Examiner	Art Unit	
Bradley J Van Pelt	3682	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 January 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 2 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Group 1 in Paper No. 5 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. Claim 2 is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected shaping surface, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 4.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: pg. 1 line 6, "fur" should be changed to --for--; pg. 2, line 12 "radiately" should be changed to --radially--; line 12 "web 5" should be changed to --web 4--; pg. 7, line 8, "shrunk" should be changed to --shrink--; pg. 13, line 18, "gar" should be changed to --gear--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakamaki (USPN 6,070,484) in view of Sato et al. (JPO 58-214053).

Sakamaki discloses a gear made of a resin (see column 3, line 53), comprising a substantially cylindrical rim (5) having a plurality of teeth (3) formed around an outer periphery thereof, a boss (2) formed about a rotational center of said rim, and a web (4) connecting said boss and said rim to each other.

Sakamaki does not disclose at least one groove is defined along outer surface of each tooth of said teeth to divide said teeth in a widthwise direction of said teeth.

Sato et al. show a gear (2) with at least one groove (10) defined along an outer surface of each tooth to divide said teeth in a widthwise direction of the teeth.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the gear of Sakamaki with grooves in the teeth for the purpose of preventing a belt from sliding off the gear.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. D'Angelo (USPN 2,862,400), Roling (USPN 4,473,364), Santi (USPN 5,852,951), Kimizuka (USPN 6,000,295), Fukuchi (USPN 6,181,899), Nagataki (JPO 58-203257).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bradley J Van Pelt whose telephone number is (703)305-8176. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:00-4:30, 2nd F 7:00-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Bucci can be reached on (703)308-3668. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)305-3597.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-2168.

BJVP *[Signature]*
January 28, 2003



Thomas R. Hannon
Primary Examiner